

2-20-2009

## The Hilltop 2-20-2009

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**WEATHER**

**WINDY** 39  
25  
Tomorrow: 48  
35

Established  
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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

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Friday, February 20, 2009

**Friday's Notebook**

**CAMPUS**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS ALMOST OVER. FIND OUT WHAT BISON ARE DOING TO SHOW THEIR PRIDE.

PAGE 2

**NATION & WORLD**

FIND OUT WHICH COLLEGE WAS AWARDED BEST HBCU AHEAD OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY BY U.S. NEWS.

PAGE 4

**SPORTS**

READ TO SEE WHICH SPORT INDUSTRY IS IN A FINANCIAL BIND RIGHT NOW. WHO IS FEELING THE STRAINS OF THE RECESSION?

PAGE 5

## Campaign Costs Run Up a Large Tab

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON-ALFORD  
Staff Writer

With posters lining the walls of each dormitory and each school, students will constantly be confronted this month with items to persuade them to vote for certain candidates in this year's student elections.

These posters are not free, nor are the T-shirts. In running, these candidates risk both the humiliation of losing and a huge financial loss, but that is just the cost of campaigning.

When candidates decide to run for office, the responsibility for staffing, conducting and financing their own campaigns are understood. They can choose their volunteers and their means of campaigning. They can also set their individual campaign budgets, with no restrictions from the Elections Commissioner Marcus Ware.

"Every year, the elections committee discusses putting a cap on spending, but it always fails," Ware said. "So candidates can spend as much money as they like."

Ware is no stranger to the campaign process. As 2007-2008 HUSA president, his campaign was successful, but he did manage to accumulate a few expenses while running for the position.

"[My campaign team] spent a little over \$3,000 on our supplies," Ware said.

Ware was not too affected because almost all of the money spent was fundraised.



Jazelle Hunt - Staff Photographer

Student candidates fundraise to spend money on campaigning materials like T-shirts, posters and treats for passersby.

"We had talked about running since that November, so we spent months raising money from our churches and families," he said. "None of it was out of pocket."

HUSA president Nicholas Owen also spent thousands funding his campaign, but raised the majority of it through fundraising as well.

"We got money from our friends

and family back home," Owen said. "We spent around \$3,000 and still spent the

> See **COSTS**, page 3



Chuck Kennedy - MCT

President Obama has announced a new bill intended to correct the mortgage crisis.

## Bill May Pull Housing Market Out Of Slump

BY OMARI EVANS  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, President Obama announced a \$75 billion bill designed to fix the mortgage crisis help to stabilize the economy.

Known as the Homeowner Stability Initiative (HSI), the bill is structured to help an estimate of seven to 9 million homeowners by restructuring or refinancing their mortgages. Four to 5 million of those homeowners may get the chance to refinance. Other components of the bill include providing loan modifications and increasing funds to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

"All of us are paying a price for this home mortgage crisis," said Obama during the announcement of the bill. "And all of us will pay an even steeper price if we allow this crisis to continue to deepen."

Since housing prices have been on a steady decline, homeowners have discovered their home mortgages have become worth more than the values of their homes. The HSI bill plans to assuage this problem by giving homeowners whose homes are owned by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae the chance to refinance their mortgage rates. Since interest rates are presently lower than they were a couple years ago, refinancing should reduce monthly payments on these homes.

The loan modification aspect of the bill would reduce monthly payments of a home to 31 percent of the homeowner's income. In addition, the U.S. Treasury Department is expected to help pay \$1,000 a year for up to five years to responsible homeowners who keep up with their payments. The goal is to eventually get homeowner monthly payments at sustainable levels. To get banks compliant with the plan, the bill has built in incentives for banks that choose to participate.

The passing of the bill will also create two funds. The Neighborhood Stabilization Fund would be created to dish out \$2 billion to neighborhoods hit hard by foreclosure to save them. Also, a \$1.5 billion fund would be created to help out those who have already had their homes foreclosed.

The bill also has other specific devices and incentives to help stabilize the mortgage crisis. During the announcement, Obama stated the bill will not save every home, but is necessary to stop the housing crisis from getting any worse.

## Howard Professor Inspires, Highlighted As Man of 'Integrity'

BY RONESHA DENNIS  
Contributing Writer

Department of Radio, TV, Film Professor James Rada was one of 15 finalists nominated for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars' Inspire Integrity Awards last week.

"I have an objective in life, which is to live a life of integrity," Rada said.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) announced the recipient of this year's award on Feb. 12. Although Rada did not win the top award, which would have been a \$3,000 personal stipend and a \$2,000 stipend for the university's scholarship fund, he did win a \$350 prize that he will not allow to go to waste.

"It's just enough to take my advanced class out," Rada said.

The Inspire Integrity Award allows the organization's student members to write essays nominating professors who have demonstrated integrity in the classrooms on their campus.

"There aren't many awards out there that highlight professors who instill integrity in students," said Mishri Someshwar, manager of Outreach Communications for NSCS.

The society is an honor society that invites students with GPAs of 3.4 and above to join during their freshman and sophomore years. The organization honors students for leadership and integrity throughout the year.

Someshwar said the organization has been giving faculty awards for three years as part of its honor platform, but decided to refocus the award on integrity in 2007.

More than 300 professors were

nominated for the prestigious award this year, and over 100 of them chose to fill out the supplementary application.

Rada said accolades from students mean a lot, and because a student saw fit to nominate him, he applied.

Each nominee's application material was due in November. The applications were then separated and sent to three regional judges. Rada was named one of three regional finalists for the award in January.

The student who nominated him, senior television production major Corrine Gilliard, has been in three of his classes and said when she received an e-mail about the award, he was the first professor to come to mind.

"He's one of the few professors at Howard who's really open about everything," she said.

Gilliard said Rada is there for students in need and is also an all-around personable person, one of the reasons that caused her to nominate him.

"His personality is very outgoing," said Accacia Thomas-Baker, a junior telecom management major. "You can look at many of his attributes and see how they allowed him to successfully move up the ladder in his field."

Thomas-Baker, who took Rada's Intro to Mass Communications class her freshman year, said the professor exuded integrity throughout the course.



File Photo

Professor James Rada, pictured with his dog Max, was announced as a finalist for this year's Inspire Integrity Award.

"He was enthused and kept the class interesting," she said. "Often-times, we talked about ethics in the field of media. He always encouraged us to stay true to ourselves."

Although Rada said integrity is not something he can work into his lesson plan, he tries to show it through actions. He said integrity "should be a verb, because you have to demonstrate it."

Inside his office, Rada has several quotes posted on his bulletin board. He said he hopes the quote, "Don't wait to strike while the iron's hot, but make it hot by striking it" is what he is doing in class. He said he often asks students what they're going to do to add to Howard University's rich history.

Gilliard said through leading by example, Rada inspires her "to be excellent not only in the television industry, but in all aspects of life."

## Volunteers Plan on Rebuilding Overseas

BY RONESHA DENNIS  
Contributing Writer

They helped to rebuild an orphanage in Panama last spring, and now members of Howard's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-HU) plan to volunteer in Brazil and Kenya.

"For this break, we're going over to assess [the areas], build relationships, interact with and mentor the children in the two communities," said Bianca Bailey, a sophomore chemical engineering major.

Bailey, who now serves as vice president to EWB-HU, said the national chapter of the organization (EWB-USA) wants member chapters to build "sustainable and holistic solutions" to the problems incurred by developing communities.

According to Bailey, people from developing communities send requests for help to EWB-USA. Then, chapters decide which communities best fit their skills before starting service.

EWB-HU Project Coordinator Jomari Peterson, a first-year graduate student at Howard, chose Brazil and Kenya as the next two projects for the organization to tackle.

"Howard University has a tendency to help communities in need," Peterson said. "I wanted to find somewhere with kids, so we can help them develop into productive adults. I was also looking for areas that had people [of color]."

Last year, EWB-HU visited Panama and rebuilt an all-girls orphanage

> See **EWB**, page 3



## Giving Back May Not Be an Option for Some

State of endowment rubs some students the wrong way, future alumni say they may not donate funds

BY ATTALAH GABRIEL  
Contributing Writer

With tuition increases and a lack of endowment, the constant question of alumni giving back to the university has recently been stressed.

More than 10 years ago, only 5 percent of alumni gave back to the university, according to the *New York Times*. Former President H. Patrick Swygert had hoped to raise that number to 30 percent by 2001. In 2003, Swygert instituted the Campaign for Howard, a project geared towards raising money for the university.

The campaign was a success, raising over \$250 million for the institution, as well as being the largest capital campaign ever completed by a historically black university.

In an effort to give students and alumni an opportunity to observe improvements on campus, the Howard University Alumni Association also implemented the Founders' Walk brick-paver program. This is another opportunity for alumni to donate to the university, by allowing them to purchase personally engraved bricks with their names on them.

Frank Matthews, publisher of *Black Issues of Higher Education*, said there is an extremely low number of alumni giving back to the university, even though many have the ability to.

The number of alumni who

are doctors, lawyers and other professionals leave them in a relatively better position to give. However, "Howard alumni have been disgruntled in recent years, bitter about their experiences at Howard, which has not enjoyed a reputation as being a caring institution in the last two of three decades."

Some current students not only feel that alumni do not give back enough, but also that their own negative experiences at Howard may influence their future actions.

"In the three years that I have been a student here, I have not seen many changes and improvements made on campus," said Ashley Lunn, a junior political science major.

Lunn suggested the university reach out more to alumni, letting them know what improvements are necessary and the amount of funds needed.

Nicole Jones, a sophomore marketing major, said after graduating, she does plan to give "at least something" back to her alma mater.

"I'm not happy about my experiences," Jones said, "but I don't want to see future students have the same problems that life as a Howard student sometimes entails."

Still, unlike Jones, some students agreed they would not give back to the university, leaving students on a similar cycle.

Spencer Chenier, coordinator of alumni relations at Howard, argued



Photo Courtesy of Howard.edu  
Due to everyday issues students face on campus, some students say they most likely will refuse to donate funds back to the university after graduation.

that bad experiences students experience at the university should not prevent them from giving back.

"Students at white schools have bad experiences too, but they still give back," Chenier said. "Oftentimes, students at Howard have a hard time understanding that the issue of alumni not giving back is bigger than them, and that by deciding not to give back individually, they hurt the university as a whole. Even donations of only a

couple dollars can make a significant difference if enough people donate money."

Also, according to Chenier, while students may be upset about the tuition increase, a larger endowment from alumni could possibly lower it in the future. With initiatives to motivate old and new alumni to donate to the university, some of these students are hopeful to have a change of heart.

## Bison Ball Rolls in New Categories of 'Excellence'

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Staff Writer

The excellence that has been epitomized by the university for almost 142 years will be celebrated again this year at the Bison Ball.

"Excellence is someone or something that goes above the bar," said James Simms, coordinator of the 2009 Bison Ball. "It is someone that

can do it on a consistent basis, someone that can compete while still helping out their community and still have the time to want to and be leaders on campus."

Since 1997, the Bison Ball has been an event that recognizes the talent and immeasurable service of Howard University students, who strive to evaluate the status of the community through their actions.

With the evaluation of the status of all segments of Howard life, this year's ball will award four new trophies to represent the growth that we have made as students.

Underclassmen Male and Female of the Year, the Faculty Cup, Male/Female Graduate and Professional School Student Award and the People's Choice Award are the new additions for the 2009 gala.

However, the new awards do not dampen the spirits that the usual awards evoke. Ashley Blaine Featherson, member of the 2008 Sorority of the Year, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., said the award represents the fulfillment of a destiny that the Howard community acknowledges.

"We're a fairly new sorority," Featherson said, "So for us, it just felt like we're showing not just us and other organizations on Howard's campus, but we are showing other AKAs across the world that we are recognized for extraordinary service and for giving back to the place where our sorority was born."

According to Featherson, the pride did not stop at showing the world that the Alpha Chapter was an integral part of Howard and the sorority overall, but the effect was internal also.

"To win sorority of the year, it was a pat on the back for all the stuff that we have done," she said. "Everything that we did to win were not things that we were trying to do. Everything was in our heart; it was genuine. The Howard University community was saying job well-done."

Victoria Kirby, a 2009 Bisonette of the Year hopeful, wants to feel the recognition and pride that the award given by peers offers.

Kirby said she attempts to strive for excellence in both her professional and personal life, to represent her family and extended family at Howard

well.

She said winning this award would be the highest honor that she could receive at Howard.

"It is nice to hear people say some nice things about you," Kirby said, "but it is different when you're presented with an award that says that you are the idea of what a Lady Bison should be."

All applications for the awards are due on Wednesday. According to Simms, the most important part of the application packet was the essay. It helps to distinguish between candidates.

"It's the one thing that can set you apart," Simms said.

Finalists will be contacted during this weekend. Information on the date, location, time and theme of the ball will be revealed at an unveiling party.

Besides the awards, Bison Ball serves as the last formal event for graduating seniors such as Featherson. She said she would enjoy it this time, even if her sorority does not receive recognition.

"It's kind of sad. It's an emotional thing because this is our last Bison Ball all here together," Featherson said. "It's been a good ride and we've given so much back to Howard. We've left a legacy. We've done exactly what our founders wanted us to do."



Photo Courtesy of Howard.edu  
This year's Bison Ball will include four new award categories, including Underclassmen Male & Female of the Year.

## Dentistry Dean Receives Presidential Citation

American Dental Education Association honors Howard dean, alumnus Leo Rouse

BY CANDACE SMITH  
Contributing Writer

One of Howard University's main functions is to produce scholars who give back, not only to the university, but also to the community.

Leo Rouse, D.D.S., Dean of the School of Dentistry, is a walking testament to this ideal. The dean was recently honored with a presidential citation, given by the 2009 American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

However, Rouse likes to keep the focus off of himself.

"It's not about me [the citation], but it is all a reflection of the faculty staff and students of the dental school," Rouse said.

The citation recognizes those individuals and institutions who have significantly contributed to addressing issues that influence education, research and the delivery of oral healthcare through impactful dental work.

His citation came in the wake of yet another honor. Only a few weeks earlier, Rouse was named to the National Dental Accrediting Commission and, in May, will become the chair of its Council of Deans.

These awards reflect his many years of service and experience. A Howard alumnus, Rouse got both his undergraduate dental degrees at Howard. Following his graduation from Dental School, he went on to the military where he served as the

Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Army Dental Command. He served in that capacity for 24 years before returning to Howard.

"My alma mater called me back," Rouse said. "I'm a true Bison product and I owe this university a lot."

Rouse tries to embody this notion of giving back in all that he does in regards to running the dental school. In addition to the recent "Give Kids a Smile" program that dental students participated in, Rouse tries to incorporate this philosophy into his hiring strategy.

Tawana Feinster, D.D.S., a faculty member, is also a product of Howard University School of Dentistry and agrees with Rouse's notion of service to one's school and community.

"The need is here so I'm here," Feinster said. "Howard gave me a lot and now I'm giving back."

Any visitor can see Rouse's passion for what he does. As he frequently walks the halls of the dental school, he greets any faculty member or student he sees, often by name.

He stops to have conversations with them, asks them how their work is going and may stop to personally examine a student's work. His passion for the students comes from his personal mission for the school.

"Our mission focuses on bringing in underserved populations and, through diversity, we represent an institution that provides opportunities

for young people of color," Rouse said.

Students agree with this mission. Senior Michael Callejas, a student in the School of Dentistry, has already benefited from other students giving back.

"Just the other day, we had a graduate student come to our class and give us his experience," Callejas said. "He really went out of his way to come speak to us."

He said giving back does not stop upon graduation as he will "definitely do pro-bono work and try to give his services to the less fortunate."

According to Rouse, part of achieving this mission is having good facilities.

"We just got a new X-ray lift," he said.

In addition to renovated elevators, new lounges and improved heating and air conditioning systems, the school received several new, state-of-the-art clinics, including an interactive simulation lab, brand new Gold and Blue Clinics and a renovated orthodontics lab.

Rouse said he believes all the improvements don't just prepare the school for accreditation, but also enhance the quality of the school. He emphasized that through technology and quality programs, his students and staff can better serve the community.

"It's all about the call of ensuring that no person goes to bed at night with dental pain," Rouse said. "Good oral health is an integral part of overall health."

# ON THE SPOT!

## How are you celebrating Black History Month this year?



"I celebrate BHM everyday because for everything I do today, the foundation was laid for me by people in the past."

-JR Nnawulezi,  
freshman, chemistry



"I usually wear one of my BH shirts. I have a lot of T-shirts, like 'Hands Off Assata' and... Jimmy Hendrix. I have a lot and am always buying more."

-Zemi Moore  
freshman, psychology



"I usually pay more attention to the TV programs and events at HU and I try to focus more on my goals. The bar is set low for African Americans, so I have places to be and goals to attain. I celebrate it by being black."

-Geoffrey Witherspoon  
sophomore, legal communications

"I am taking part in the Pan-Africa Youth Summit Feb. 23-28 and I will probably try to find something for my daughter and little brothers to do like an African festival or something."

-Safiyah Farrakhan,  
senior, psychology

-Compiled by  
Ashley Johnson-Alford, Staff Writer



## Candidates Dish Out Cash for Campaign Items

continued from FRONT, COSTS

least out of everybody running with us."

Owen and Ware both planned their budgets around staffing their team and promoting their platforms. Owen made T-shirts and used a grassroots method of campaigning, where he made an effort to speak to every student.

"I think that spending money on the T-shirts and posters are necessary for communications and public relations purposes," Owen said.

Ware spent his money on flyers and T-shirts, and also constructed a Web site. He purchased 150 T-shirts that served to "get the platform out and reward his volunteers."

"We didn't have to spend what we spent. Victoria Kirby is a great example of this," Ware said. "But we wanted to be competitive."

Current undergraduate trustee Victoria Kirby is known for her "low-cost" campaign, ultimately ending successfully.

"You don't need money to win," Kirby said. "It is more important to make a connection with the students. Money just extends the amount of connections you can make."

Her campaign was simple, compared to her running mates, which saved her possibly thousands in the end.

"I didn't have a large staff or a

lot of volunteers," she said. "I had one campaign shirt that I wore. My team was creative."

Kirby printed her posters from the Information Labs on campus, which every student pays for through technology fees. She also utilized popular social networking site Facebook and built her own free Web site as well. She made videos and e-mailed students personally, providing more information about her campaign.

"I was constantly out talking to people and telling them why I was running," Kirby said. "When you are handing them products, the conversation is more superficial. My poster was not the most appealing compared to others', but I was walking people to class and e-mailing them. These are all things that were free, but reached people all the same."

Kirby spent \$167 on her campaign — a lot cheaper than Ware's expenditures. Still, Ware does see the need to raise money for a campaign as a prerequisite to any position that candidates are running for.

"As a president, you have to raise



Jazelle Hunt - Staff Photographer

While some candidates have spent thousands of dollars on campaigning, others say more may not always be better.

money, so why not raise money for a campaign? It is indicative of your ability to get something done before you are even elected," Ware said.

Kirby agrees with the need for candidates to "prove themselves" prior to taking office.

"Campaigning does not really start in February and end in March," she said. "It starts months before and depends on what people see you do then, not now. Before I even started [campaigning], I had already made connections and have proven myself as a candidate."

## 'Engineer' Organization For All Disciplines, Talents

continued from FRONT, EWB

that takes in young victims of domestic abuse.

This year's trips will be the start of three-to-five year relationships between the volunteers from EWB-HU and the people of Brazil and Kenya.

The organization originally planned to visit Brazil on Jan. 3 for a week-long assessment, but due to "logistical issues," the assessment will now take place during the spring trip, Bailey said.

EWB-HU faculty advisor John Tharakan said the coordinators in Brazil have been working with the group over the phone, preparing for them to visit the site.

Eight volunteers will travel to Brazil to build a multipurpose theater, while seven others will travel to Kenya to build two orphanages.

In Brazil, EWB-HU members will build a stage and seats in the theater for the community's children. They will also build two orphanages in Kenya for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Although the word "engineers" implies EWB-HU is an engineering group, Peterson said the group is interdisciplinary and, in his search, he looked for locations that would be accessible for students of all disciplines.

He said in Brazil, EWB-HU volunteers will build the theater and volunteers from the fine arts division will use their skills to add culture and help the organization "bring value" to the community.

Amber Demery, a freshman psychology major, said had she known about EWB-HU's volunteer abroad trips, she would have quickly joined.

"It seems like a study abroad opportunity, only better," Demery said. "In study abroad, students learn in classrooms and through sight-seeing. With [EWB-HU], students have the opportunity to go into the communities and help the people who are there improve their lives."

Demery said the trips provide a wonderful opportunity to learn, and EWB-HU should publicize them.

"If I heard about it, I would go to a meeting to find out more," she said. "It seems like a wonderful opportunity that I would love to partake in."

Although the volunteers for this year's spring break trip have been submitted, Bailey said she encourages students who are interested to join the organization. She said they will have an opportunity to volunteer in either Brazil or Kenya in the upcoming year.

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# Little Known Black History Figures: *A. Philip Randolph*

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY  
Contributing Writer

His image can be seen in Union Station as the gigantic bronze statue of a man unknown by many. A statue of a man who has helped changed the course of America for many African-Americans.

Asa Philip Randolph, also known as A. Philip Randolph, was a prominent Civil Rights and Labor Rights leader of the twentieth century. As one of the organizers of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph fought to form a proper labor institution for the employees of the Pullman Company, where the majority of the employees were African-American.

In association with the American Federation of Labor, A. Philip Randolph helped the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to win \$2 million in pay increase for employees. He also helped them get shorter work weeks and overtime pay.

Labor leader and activist Norman Hill has worked closely with Randolph and recalls Randolph as the nation's greatest black labor leader.

"He was the initiator of the epic Aug. 28, 1963 March on Washington for jobs and freedom," said Hill.

Before the March on Washington in 1963, Randolph worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1941, when they proposed a protest against racial discrimination in the armed forces. In 1948, through the Executive Order 9981, former president Harry Truman abolished racial segregation in the military.

tary. Junior Zelenia Williams is an African-American studies minor who has not heard of A. Philip Randolph.

"Influential [African] Americans aren't a priority in terms of 'American History,' therefore, any potential role models for the demographic that is supposed to be on the bottom will never serve their purpose," said Williams.

Ojirese Momoh, a junior sports medicine major, has heard of A. Philip Randolph, and part of the reason is because they are both members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

"Few people know how similar his [Randolph] beliefs and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s were," said Momoh. "I also think that due to the lights and glamour that D.C. has to offer, many people miss the simple things such as statues explaining exactly who the person is, and what he is famous, respected or sculpted for."

Courtney Black, a senior African-American studies major studying at the University of South Carolina, has heard of A. Philip Randolph, but only vaguely.

"From elementary school all the way through high school, I never heard of

of the same African-Americans such as Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Black.

Black said that it wasn't until she reached college that she heard of Asa Philip Randolph.

Some of the honors and awards that A. Philip Randolph received for his work in civil and labor rights includes the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by former president Lyndon B. Johnson, a high school in New York City named in his honor as well, the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Even though A. Philip Randolph has been awarded medals and has schools and institutes named in his honor, some believe that he will not be as important as other civil rights activists.

"I feel as if he was that influential, then perhaps I would hear some mention of his name," said Williams.

Others believe that sometimes it's not about the fame, it's about the impact and change that people are making.

"Sometimes, it's the people who we don't hear about who are the biggest heroes," said Black.

Momoh, along with Phi Beta Fraternity, Inc., plans to continue to inform people about A. Philip Randolph's legacy.

"Brother Randolph was not a celebrity, but a much respected man. If you really want to know a little more about A. Phillip Randolph tap a sigma on his shoulder and he'll send you a couple stops down the metro for your answer," said Momoh.



John Bottega - New York World-Telegram & Sun  
Asa Phillip Randolph was a civil and labor rights leader and friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A statue of Randolph can also be seen in Union Station.

*"Few people know how similar his beliefs and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s were." - Ojirese Momoh*

him. Even during Black History month, I would hear about the accomplishments

## Howard Ranks No. 2 Among HBCUs

BY KYLA GRANT  
Contributing Writer

Howard University's dedication to excellence is still a force to be reckoned with, according to the 2009 edition of the U.S. News' America's Best Colleges.

The annual ranking is considered by many to be an honor that brings visibility, prestige and enhanced recruiting and fundraising capacity to the institutions that place highly.

For 2009, Howard ranked just behind Spelman College, the all-women liberal arts college in Atlanta, and ahead of the third place institution, the all-male Morehouse College, also in Atlanta.

Howard students welcomed the news about their institution's ranking.

"[Howard] continues to produce the highest number of doctorate degrees

among black Americans and boasts over 10 colleges/schools with over 100 individualized degree programs," Reginald Golden, a freshman jazz studies major, said. "Unlike the other top HBCUs, Howard does it under \$15,000. Every Howard student really is getting a Tier 1 education at a very reasonable price."

According to Spelman women, being ranked No. 1 HBCU in the country is to be expected.

"Spelman is the No. 1 HBCU because of the exclusivity of the college," said Ivory Clark, a sophomore Economics major at Spelman College. "Because of the highly selective admissions process, [Spelman] educates some of the brightest women in the country."

Other students, while pleased that Howard placed highly, were nonetheless dismayed that their school was ranked behind Spelman.

"Well, after comparing the two, Spelman on paper seems to be more competitive; however, with the many smart and talented students here at Howard, I do find it surprising that they are ahead of us," said Brittany White, a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Howard University's rival institution, Hampton University, located in Hampton, Va., received a fourth place rating, and students have had an indifferent response to the recently released rankings.

"The points of allocation have to provide a certain level of bias which will never allow for an accurate surveying of methodized aspects of university life," Steven Coble, a junior architecture student from Hampton University, said. "There will always be a percentage of error, but I am not shocked that [we] are ranked fourth."

Coble notes the low retention rate of Hamptonians as a possible cause for Hampton's fourth place ranking.

Some students blame the downturn in the economy, combined with a long, painful history of underfunding as a major role in the low retention rate at Morehouse College.

"I feel that Morehouse is behind Howard and Spelman not because of a lack of knowledge, but because of the lack of funds made available to Morehouse men," said Andrew Cox, a freshman music and English double major at Morehouse College.

Although the number of African-American students attending college has been steadily rising, doubling in the past 30 years to almost 2 million, students from the top HBCUs hope to see continuous improvements to their respective universities.

"I would love to see more scholarships offered," Clark said. "With the current state of the economy, I have watched so many good students pack their bags and go home because they can't afford to pay tuition."

With student government campaign season in full swing, Howard students note better relations with school administration as an improvement they would like to see on campus.

"There are so many complaints from the students about housing, food, administration...if there is actual communication from the students to the administration... Howard will only become better," White said. "It is now the beginning of Howard's campaign season, and I really want to see who is going to make a difference and make a change."



Photo courtesy of Spelman.edu

Spelman College ranked No. 1 among HBCUs. Spelman is an all-women's school located in Atlanta.



Photo courtesy of Howard.edu

Howard University ranked No. 2 among HBCUs, behind Spelman College. It ranked 102nd on the national level.

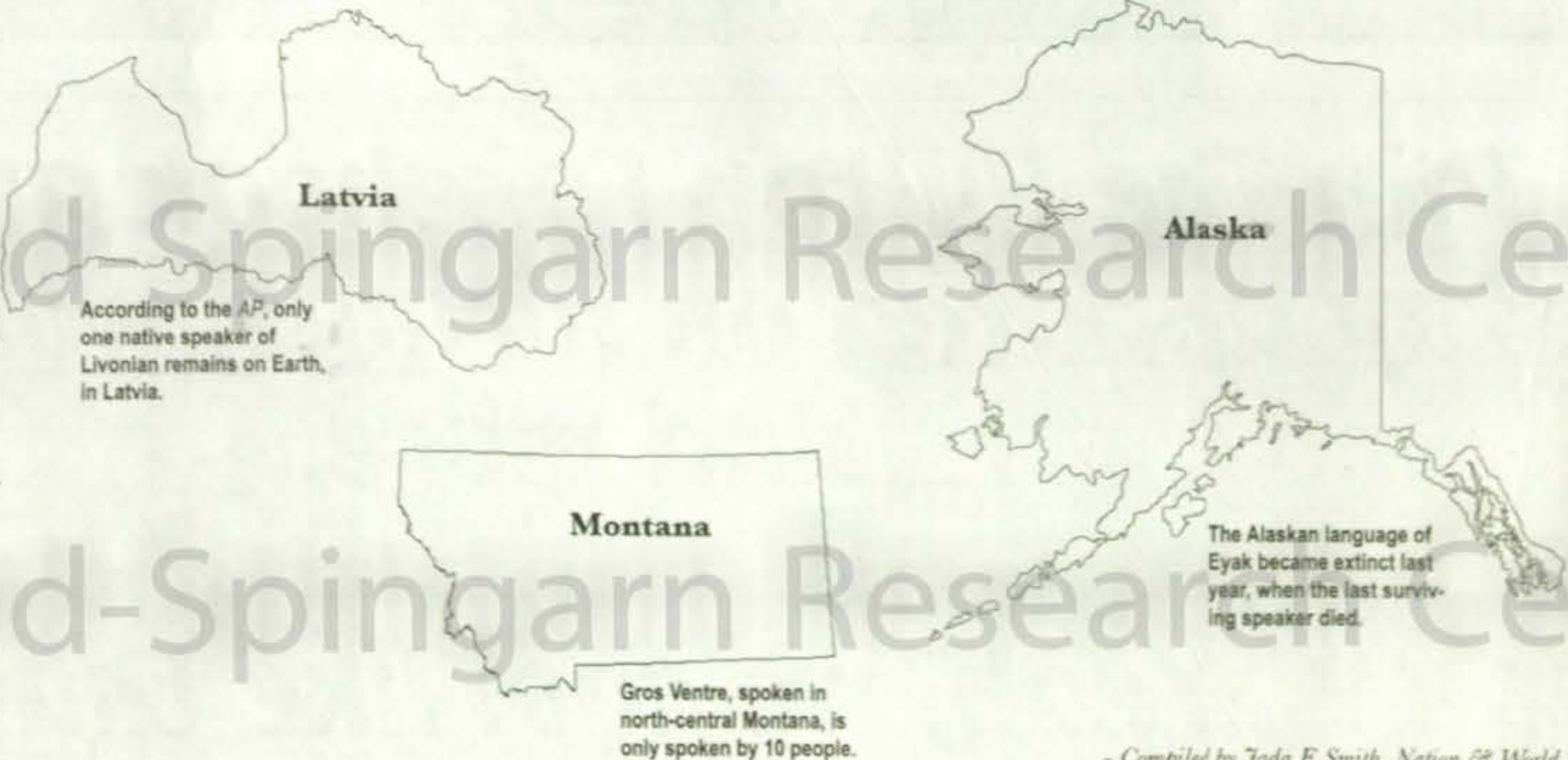


Photo Courtesy of Morehouse.edu

Morehouse College, an all-men college, ranked No. 3 among HBCUs. It is also located in Atlanta.

## More World Languages Face Extinction

- According to the Associated Press, there are 2,500 languages that United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) says are in danger of becoming extinct or have recently disappeared.
- The 2,500 languages that are either endangered or on the verge of extinction are out of a total of 6,000 world languages.
- The three main criteria for identifying a language as endangered are: 1. The number of speakers currently, 2. The mean age of native and/or fluent speakers and 3. The percentage of the youngest generation acquiring fluency with the language in question.



- Compiled by Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor



# Economic Recession Finally Hits the NBA, 15 Teams Need Loans

BY HEATHER ROBINSON  
Contributing Writer

Think the recession wasn't affecting everyone? Well, think again. Owners of various teams within the National Basketball Association (NBA) are finding it difficult to complete day-to-day transactions, due to the economic crisis at hand. Some owners have lost millions of dollars recently and are being faced with the decision of clearing up salary cap room so they will not be thrust into the luxury tax.

Salary caps are enforced in professional sports to ensure that teams in larger markets, for example, New York, cannot go out and sign all of the best players in the league and impose their will on the smaller markets. The purpose of the salary cap is to create an even playing field. For the 2008-09 season, the salary cap has been set at \$58.68 million per team. There are teams, however, that often surpass the salary cap due to various clauses. However, teams in the NBA can only exceed that cap by and venture into the luxury tax levels, which this season is around \$70 million. If a team passes this threshold, they have to pay double every dollar for exceeding the cap. Last year, eight teams were hit with a luxury tax bill.

The recession has caused many owners, who are losing money, to fear that they will lose more by entering the luxury tax causing them to look for trade opportunities in an effort to avoid paying the tax. This is the reason for the quick and seemingly imprudent trades that have taken place as the Feb. 19 trade deadline passed.

Beyond the salary cap issues, teams in the Orlando Magic's position are straining to get through the operating costs of owning a team. The Magic, although holding the third best record in the Eastern Conference, have been operating in the negative for years. "We've been operating at a \$15 [million] to \$20 million [annual] loss over the past half-dozen years," said Alex Martins, chief operating officer of the Orlando Magic.

As the economy has continued to take a nosedive, attendance numbers have dropped, corporate sponsors have been reluctant to renew contracts, player



Patrick Farrell - (MCT)

Last summer, the Denver Nuggets traded center Marcus Camby (right) to the Los Angeles Clippers for a draft pick. The trade was made mainly to avoid paying the NBA's luxury tax.

and coach salaries have risen, and the price of upkeep for stadiums and practice facilities have also begun to rise.

After surveying 30 teams and immediately receiving interest from 15, the NBA front office has chosen to relieve some of the financial pressure by borrowing \$175 million from JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America. The deal will enable each team to borrow a maximum of \$11.66 million to cover any operating costs and possibly other various costs.

Martins, concerning the loan, said, "It's a bridge for us. It helps us cover some of our operations losses and debt as opposed to additional equity in the team."

The new \$175 million loan will supplement the existing \$1.7 billion credit facility that used the NBA's media

contracts as a way to ensure loans for the teams.

If the deal stands as is, the league will be paying an 8.27 percent interest rate on \$100 million of the debt for a seven-year term and a 7.45 percent interest rate on the other \$75 million of the debt for a five-year term. The deal is expected to go into place on Feb. 26.

"If money is needed for the upkeep of the facilities, the players and coaches need to bite the dust and take the pay cut," said Deandre Henderson, a sophomore Economics major at Howard University. "It is obvious that the diminishing state of the economy is taking a toll on its revenue stream so they must make the necessary cuts to follow suit. Borrowing the money will only hurt the economy more in the short run."

## Bison Fall to Morgan State Bears



Photo Courtesy Howard University Sports Information Office

The Bison lost to the Morgan State Bears on Wednesday, Feb. 18 by a score of 74-69. The Bears won their seventh straight game, while the Bison dropped their third straight conference game.

Morgan State led at halftime 37-30 and were in control of the game throughout. Junior forward Paul Kirkpatrick scored 14 points and played well in the post.

"Paul really stepped up tonight. I would like to see him play at that level all the time," said head basketball coach Gil Jackson.

Sophomore guard Kyle Riley led the Bison in scoring with 18 points. Riley also had five assists.

Riley has been handling a back injury throughout the season and said that everyone on the team needs to contribute in this home stretch.

"It is frustrating because we felt like we could play with them tonight," Riley said.

The Bison next game will be on Monday at 8 p.m. in Burr Gymnasium against the Coppin State Eagles.

Information courtesy of Howard University Sports Information Office



## MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

1. Morgan State 16-10 (10-2)
2. North Carolina A&T 13-12 (7-5)
3. South Carolina St. 12-12 (7-5)
4. Coppin State 10-16 (7-5)
5. Bethune-Cookman 12-14 (6-6)
6. Norfolk St. 8-15 (6-6)
7. Hampton 12-13 (5-6)
8. Howard University 7-15 (5-6)
9. Delaware St. 7-20 (5-7)
10. Florida A&M 6-18 (4-8)
11. UMES 7-18 (3-9)

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

1. North Carolina A&T 18-6 (11-1)
2. Delaware St. 14-11 (10-2)
3. Coppin St. 10-3 (11-3)
4. Morgan St. 15-10 (7-5)
5. Hampton 11-12 (7-4)
6. UMES 11-12 (7-5)
7. FAMU 10-13 (6-7)
8. Howard University 5-19 (4-7)
9. South Carolina St. 6-17 (3-9)
10. Bethune-Cookman 9-14 (2-10)
11. Norfolk St. 0-22 (0-12)

## BOWLING

### STANDINGS

1. UMES 25-5
2. Delaware St. 25-6
3. Morgan St. 20-10
4. Norfolk St. 20-10
5. Florida A&M 13-11
6. North Carolina A&T 13-11
7. Hampton 12-18
8. Howard University 8-22

Compiled by Deontay Morris, Sports Editor

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

February 20, 1952

Major League Baseball selects its first black umpire, Emmett Ashford.

Courtesy of [www.todayinsports.com](http://www.todayinsports.com)

Sports Trivia!  
When did the Indiana Pacers win ABA championships?

Answer:  
1970, 1972 and 1973



## A CALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO Howard University's Self-Study Report!!



An Opportunity for Faculty, Staff and Students  
to Participate in Howard University's Renewal!

HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S  
REAFFIRMATION FOR REACCREDITATION  
BY THE  
MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TOWN HALL MEETING/LUNCH

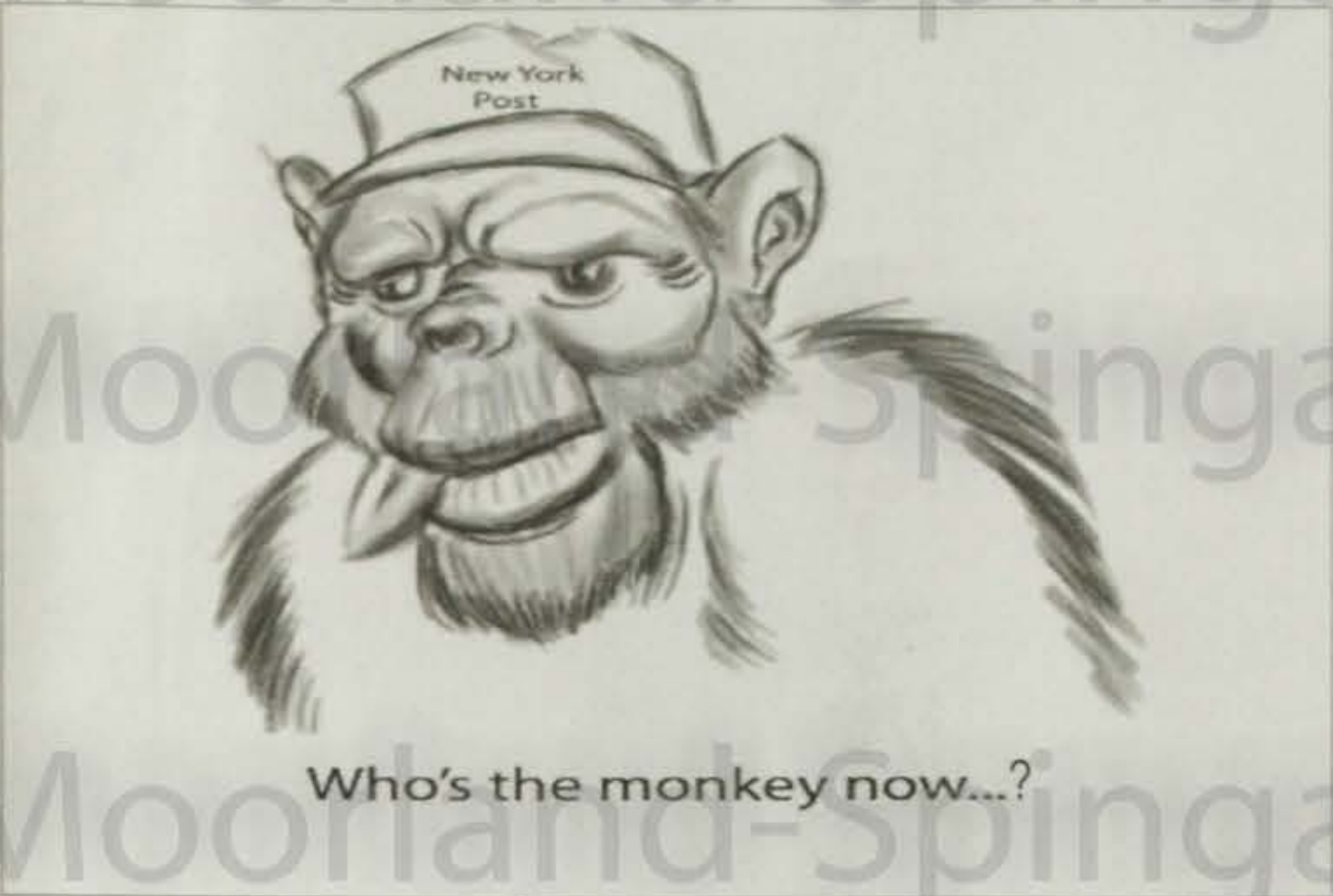
Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Blackburn Center Ballroom

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

- Review the Self-Study Report and post your comments at [www.gs.howard.edu/middle\\_states](http://www.gs.howard.edu/middle_states)
- Come prepared to ask questions
- For more information, contact the Self-Study Office at (202) 238-2495 or [UWSelf-study@howard.edu](mailto:UWSelf-study@howard.edu)





# The New York Post Should Rethink Offensive Cartoons

A cartoon depicting President Obama as a fatally wounded monkey appeared in Wednesday's edition of the *New York Post*. Although this is not the first time a publication has satirized an image of Obama, this is by far one of the most blatantly disrespectful images that has been published.

**Our View:**  
*The New York Post should be sensitive to its readers and think twice for the good of the publication.*

Nonetheless, it is a major publication that disrespected its readership. An obvious flaw in the cartoon's justification is also apparent. Maybe its just us, but where is the connection between the stimulus bill and a dead monkey? Whether or not America

wants to believe that racism still exists, it does. Our president is black and, historically, blacks were likened to monkeys. So why would you not think depicting our black president as a monkey is wrong? Of course, Al Sharpton was the first to boycott the paper and its publication of the cartoon. Sharpton has always been opportunistic and that probably will not change. But that does not negate his justification for leading protests against the paper. The tolerance of a global leader has to be high in order to deal with the harsh criticisms and attacks that are thrown at them at a daily basis. President Bush was always the subject of a satire, cartoon, skit, or joke. Being president of the United States requires tough skin, but that does not mean that we should encourage racism and outright disrespect.

# Daily Sudoku

Directions:  
Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

5	9			1				
						8	5	
			3	9		1	2	
	2		1			3		
				4				
		8			7		9	
2	7		5	8				
3	8							
			2			3	1	

Do you want to write for  
The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

## Perspectives

### Grad Students Don't Read The Hilltop ??!

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, I stumbled upon a lunch gathering held by our former Dean of Residence Life and now current Interim Vice Provost Charles Gibbs. As we're eating, discussing and sharing laughs and jokes, I notice I'm sitting by a female who seems to have no interest in the ordeal. As the discussion picks up, General Elections Commissioner Marcus Ware makes a comment about the Office of Student Affairs reaching out to bridge the gap between the undergraduate and graduate students. Gibbs then asks the female I'm sitting by what she's thinking. The female says, and I quote, "Graduate students are not going to come out to an event if undergraduate students are going to be there." We chuckled at it; however, in my head, I'm offended. What have I ever done to a graduate student? Serving on the General Elections Commission as Local Elections Coordinator, I have formed cordial relationships with many of the graduate student election coordinators and presidents. This female continued to make negative comments about undergraduate life, even saying, "We don't read *The Hilltop* at my building in the morning when I leave out, and when I come back in later those same 10 copies will be there." Later that evening, the General Elections Commission held a speak out for the Graduate Trustee and HUSA candidates in the Medical School. There was a great turnout of graduate and professional students who actively involved themselves in the debate. Among those students was the same female from the previously stated lunch. I laughed when I saw her stand up to ask a question, wondering what type of question was she going to ask, only to be surprised that this lady happens to be OUR graduate trustee, Danielle Perry. I stress OUR because if you reference the Howard University Student H-Book, you will find a picture of both student trustees with a letter they composed stating that they were both working towards the interest of the University, NOT the interest of the undergraduate students separately or the graduate students separately — but the university as a WHOLE. It strikes me that this person smiling next to Trustee Kirby on page 64, who seemed so passionate and excited to serve the student body and represent us in the boardroom, was the same apathetic, negative and just downright RUDE individual sitting next to me at lunch! After a few more questions, General Elections Program Director Edward Williams began the transition from graduate trustee to HUSA executive slates. At this very moment, ALL of the graduate students began to get their stuff to leave. If you didn't know, graduate students will have to vote March 3 on Bison web for not only their individual school councils and graduate trustee, but for the HUSA executive candidates as well. It would only make sense that they pose questions to THEIR potential leaders, however the same lethargic attitude their current trustee had for undergraduate students they share as well. I watched as many undergraduate students pleaded with them to stay. I even stood at the door telling them that they will have to vote for these students so they should hear what they have to say, only to be responded with attitudes and the rolling of eyes. I am very disappointed in the graduate students at Howard

University. I actually was a bit enraged. How can you badger and nitpick about feeling included by your graduate school representatives when you could care less about your school as a whole? The same issues that you experience at your schools, we as undergraduate students experience at ours. You have a leaky roof; we have a leaky roof. You have limited Internet access in your classrooms; we have limited Internet access in our classrooms. You have issues with financial aid; we have issues with financial aid. What is the division about? What we should be doing is coming together instead of separating ourselves. The more we divide ourselves from each other, the more this school will be divided and things will only be HALF done. I personally care about the issues that the graduate schools experience because I may be a potential law student here at Howard. I have friends who intend on being potential graduate students at the other schools. We want their issues to be solved as well so that when we get there, things can be improved! My mother always tells me to watch how I treat others because I may need them one day. I always responded to her cliché statement with an "oh well" attitude, but today I realized how true it is! Those same students that Trustee Perry looked down on at lunch, and those same candidates who the graduate students walked out on at the speakout could be — and WILL be — because I do proclaim all good things, the next Barack and Michelle Obamas in the world. Let's get it together!

- Whitney Henry, junior sports management major

# THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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*Advertising Manager*

*The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com). Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business Office.*

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2251 Sherman Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 806-4724 (Editorial)  
(202) 806-4749 (Business)  
[hilltopec@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopec@gmail.com)  
[hilltopbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopbusiness@gmail.com)  
Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation. The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration. *The Hilltop* reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



The Hilltop prints everyday. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word.

All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 5 business days in advance.

We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, and company checks. **NO CASH**

Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749 or email us at hilltopbusiness@gmail.com.

If you will be a Junior or Senior during the school year 2009-2010 have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and demonstrated community involvement, then you are eligible for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M. Quander Memorial Scholarship. Applications are available at the Undergraduate and Founders Libraries, Office of Financial Aid and the Information Desk in the Blackburn Center. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

**Hu Cali Club presents: California Dreamin: Recession Proof** A week long event. 2/22-2/28 7days, 7ways. The Hu Cali Club will show you how to make it through the recession. Starting this Sunday (2/22) with **Spiritual Investments: A Call to Chapel** Followed by a business forum on **Monday (2/23): Keeping the Dream Alive.** More details on the weeks events in Monday's Hilltopics.....

**Alternative Spring Break Howard vs Coppin State Basketball Feb 23 2009 Burr Gym 8pm**

**ARE YOU UP TO THE AMERICORPS CHALLENGE? HEADS UP IS SEEKING HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**  
Co-lead your own elementary school class  
\$4,500 living stipend (may apply FWS)  
\$2,362 educational award  
Leadership skills and teaching experience  
Immerse yourself in an urban school system  
Mentor youth and bond with children grades K-8  
Have a summer and year like no other!  
**SERVE-LEARN-LEAD**  
Join Today  
Application priority deadline is March 13, 2009; apply online:

<http://www.headsup-dc.org/involved/AmeriCorps.html>  
For more info contact: mney@headsup-dc.org

**Monday- Howard v. Coppin State Basketball Game ASB Raffles and prizes Burr Gymnasium 6pm**  
**Tuesday- ASB Game Night Bowling- \$3 per game Pool- \$5 unlimited 7pm Blackburn Gameroom**  
**Wednesday- Wednesday Night Live**  
**Thursday- ASB Cafe Night Raffles and prizes 5pm Blackburn Cafe**  
**Friday- Open Mic TBA**

**Sitters Wanted. \$12 or more per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com**

**Howard University Student Ambassador Organization Presents: Student Ambassador Week 2009**  
**Tuesday 2/17: How Well Do You Really Know Howard? 7pm Blackburn Forum**  
**Wednesday 2/18: Show us what you Got Pt. I 5-8pm Blackburn - Rm148 / 150**  
**Thursday 2/19: Show us what you Got Pt. II 5.30-7.30pm Carnegie Hall**  
**Friday 2/20: Speak Your Mind 6-9pm Blackburn Gallery Lounge**  
**Saturday 2/21: Training / Orientation 10am-2pm Blackburn Reading Lounge**

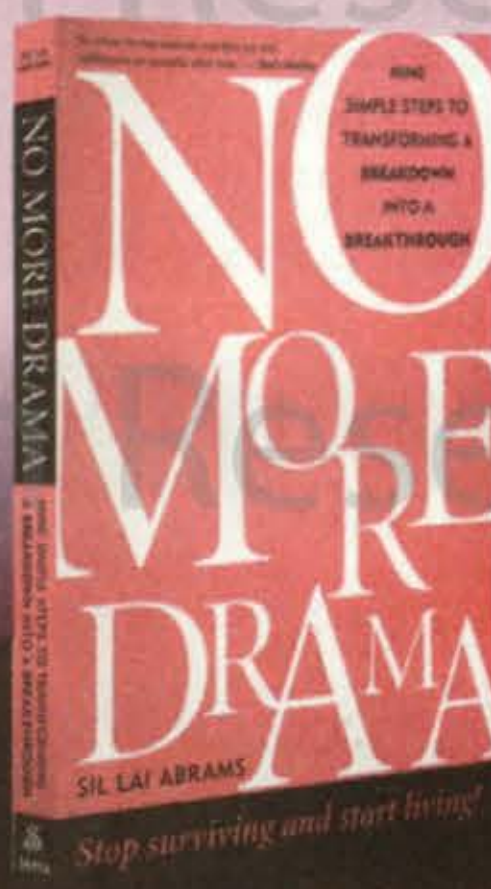
The Dean of Student Life and Activities Presents

## 31 Flavors of a WOMAN

Featuring Sil Lai Abrams

Author of *No More Drama*

Nine Simple Steps to Transforming a Breakdown Into Breakthrough



**Tuesday, February 24th, 2009 6:00 PM**

**Blackburn Center Gallery Lounge**

Light fare, ice cream and good conversation, guaranteed. First 15 attendees receive a free copy of "No More Drama"

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Monetary awards in each division: Arts and Humanities, Biological and Life Sciences, Engineering and Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences

### ANNUAL GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND HONORS DAY

Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional, and Postdoctoral Students Will Present Oral and Poster Presentations

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Blackburn University Center

8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Deadline for Abstracts: Friday, March 6, 2009

Sponsored by the Howard University Graduate School

For more information, contact Dr. Anita Nahal, Chair, Research Day; [anahal@howard.edu](mailto:anahal@howard.edu); 202-806-7887; or Ms. Tenille Jones, Logistics Coordinator, Research Day; [tjones1@howard.edu](mailto:tjones1@howard.edu); 202-806-6864; [www.gs.howard.edu](http://www.gs.howard.edu)